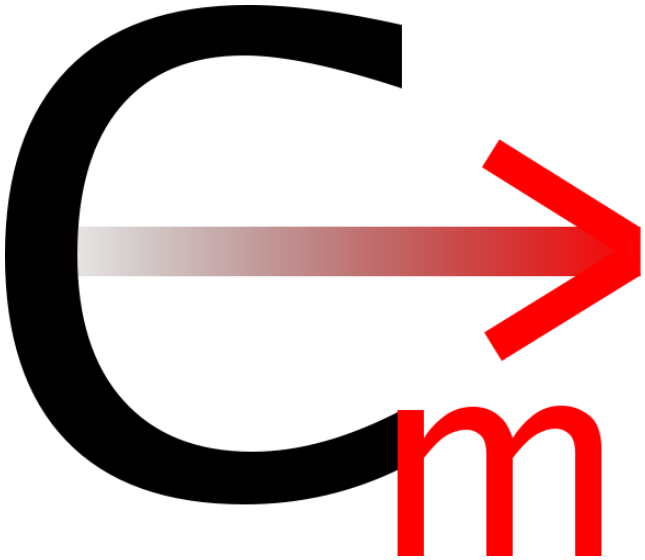

ChordProConvertor

User Manual

version 0.9.1

http://convertor.yes-online.org

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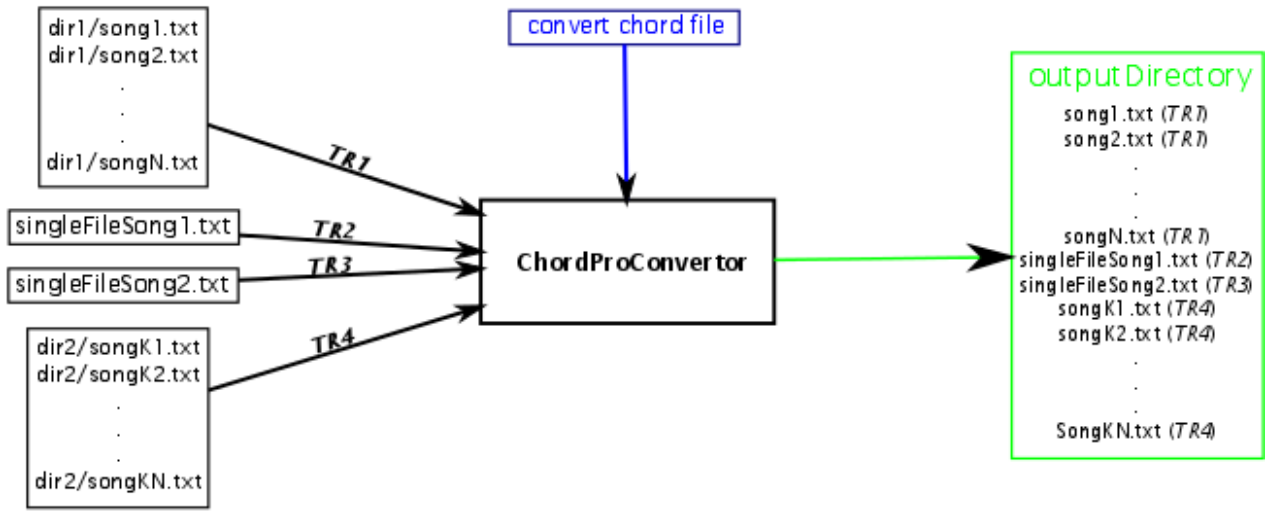
Introduction

ChordPro is a popular file format for writing songs for musicians. There are many programs that take this format as a input and produce a song sheet in various other formats (html, pdf, on screen, ...). Many times they provides extra functionality as is e.g. transponing the chords into another scale. Unfortunately many of these programs work with a limited number of chords (e.g. only with american style of chords).

Sometimes it is even necessary to maintain more versions of the same song (e.g. because of more musicians, or more songbooks they are from) and one way of storing them is to have them in separate directories or in the same directory but with different file names. It our opinion it is more clear to store such songs in different directories, but then if we want to make a complete song sheet we face a problem, when the names of songs are not distinguished or even our favorite program does not take more directories as an input. This does not only cover same songs, but also some set of different songs. Say for example that we want to separately keep songs for two or more musicians and we would like to be able to distinguish their songs in the final song sheet. We would set a directory for each of the musician and place their songs inside.

ChordProConvertor is a solution for chord transformation problem and also for the "maintenance" problem. The basic functionality can be seen on the picture bellow.



Picture 1: The basic functionality of *ChordProConvertor*

ChordProConvertor takes number of input song files (in chordPro format) or even whole directories which will be processed recursively and process them into a single output directory. During the process several rules applies:

- Every single file or directory is given *optional* text mark (TR1, TR2, … in the picture) which will be used to construct new file in output directory and will be placed in the *file name* and in the *song title*.
- Every file (also those that are included into selected directory) will have all chords replaced by the convert chord file which includes the rule for replacing the chords.

Requirements

ChordProConvertor runs on these systems:

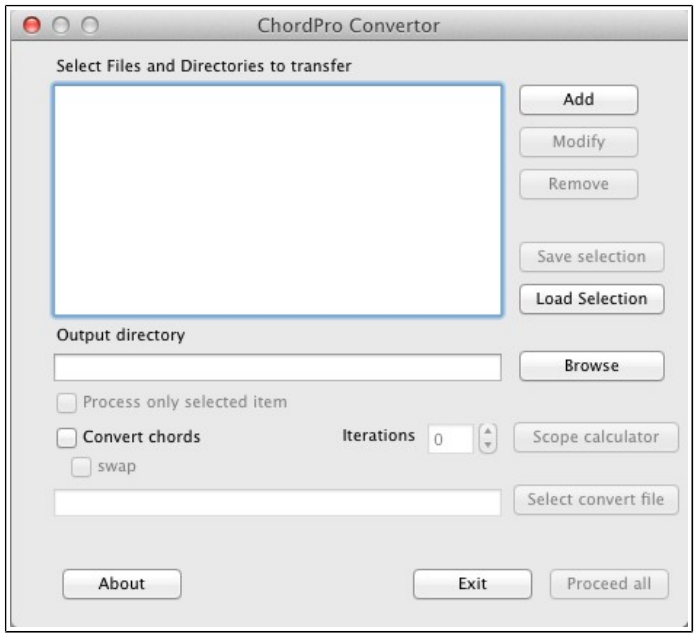
- Windows XP and later (tested on Windows 7)
- MacOS X 10.5 and later (tested on 10.7)
- Linux with kernel 2.6 and later (tested on Ubuntu 11.10)

However to run this program you need to have installed Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.5 or later. Program is compiled for both 32 bit and 64 bit version of Java. If you are not sure which java version you use, type *java -version* into command line.

Usage

ChordProConvertor is a GUI application which runs on most of todays desktop platforms. To run it, simply invoke the exe file (windows) or app file (mac os). The linux users should run the .jar file with *java -jar* command.

After a successful invocation you should see the main window.

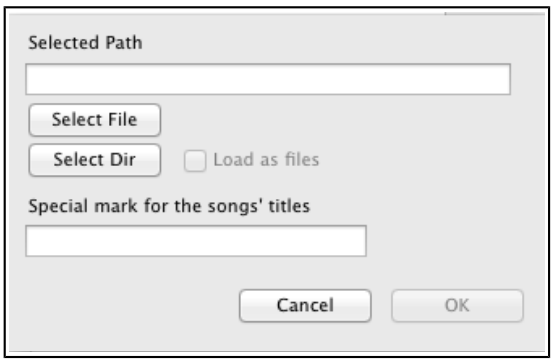


Picture 1: The Main Window of *ChordProConvertor*

Adding, modifying and removing song files and directories entries

This window provides the overview of input files, of the output directory and of the chord convert file. The functionality is as follows:

- **Add** – Adds a new file or directory entry into input selection for the transformation process. Here you can specify the location of the file or directory and also assign the string mark for the entry which will be *added into song's title* and in the *new song file name*. See picture bellow.
- **Modify –** Modifies the currently highlighted entry. See picture bellow.
- **Remove** – Removes the currently highlighted entry.



Picture 2: The Add or Modify entry Window of *ChordProConvertor*

On the window you can add or modify the file or directory path and also provide a text mark. ***If you do not want to use any text mark, just leave the text entry blank.***

- **Select File** – adds a specific file into selection
- Select Directory – adds a whole directory including subdirectories into selection.
    - **Load as files –** determine, whether the files from selected directory should be loaded as individual entries (option is marked) or not. Load as files should be marked, when you want to care about single files (modifying their title mark, or converting their chords individually (such as transposing), …). *If you just want to process the directory, as a whole, you should probably not mark this option*.

When you are ready press *OK* to save your entry, or *Cancel* to discard changes.

Saving and loading the selection

Other functionalities on the Main Window are:

- **Save selection** – To make your live easier the application provides functionality for saving the current selection into the file. So in case of repeated tasks the selection can be loaded from the file.
- **Load selection** – Loads previously saved selection from a file.

Converting the Chords

In case you want to **convert chords**, you should mark *Convert chords* button and provide convert chord file which includes the rules according which the chords should be converted. The convert chord file is a simple text file which includes doubles of chords in one line divided by a semicolon. The example of such a entry is: *Em:e.* One entry represents one rule and entries are divided by a newline, so simply put every entry into a new line. The example of entries in the file is:

```
Em:e
Fm:f
Gsus4:G
Bm:h
```

The entries represents four rules. According to the **swap** button in the Main Window, the rules will be applied from left to right (if the swap is not activated) or from the right to left (if the swap is activated). Basically in the left to right rule, every ***Em, Fm, Gsus4, Bm*** chord will be transformed into ***e, f, G, h*** respectively. In the case of right to left rule, every ***e, f, G, h*** will be transformed into ***Em, Fm, Gsus4, h*** respectively.

Only the chords that are located in the original song file between two brackets (e.g [Em]) or in the pair divided by slash (e.g [Em/*someOtherChord*] or [*someOtherChord*/Em]) will be transformed.

In a single rules run, when a chord is matched by one rule, this chord is transformed into another chord (according to the rule), but the new (transformed) chord will not be matched anymore, not even if there is another rule in the queue which should match. The consequence is, that one chord can be transformed only once in a single run. Sometimes it is essential to apply the rules more times (e.g. when you have a transposition rule which you would like to apply more times, to receive two or more transposition steps). For these reasons you can specify the *number of iterations* which says, how many times should the rules be repeatedly applied before the result is saved.

Example of transformation

Say we have a song file which looks like this:

```
Am[F]azing [F/A]grace, how swe[Bb]et the so[F]und
That saved a [Dm]wretch like me[F/C][C]
```

and we want to convert all **F, Dm** and **C** chords into some other chords. Lets say we want to convert *F into E, Dm into d* and *C into B*. We will write a convert chord file in a text editor like this:

```
F:E
Dm:d
C:B
```

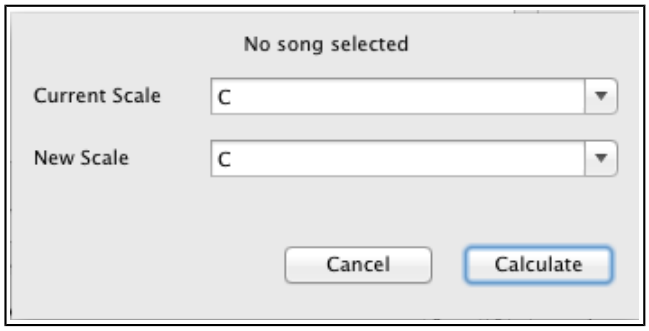
After we run the program out song file will be like this:

```
Am[E]azing [E/A]grace, how swe[Bb]et the so[E]und
That saved a [d]wretch like me[F/B][B]
```

Transpositions

ChordProConvertor can be used also for transposing songs. All you have to do is write your own convert chord file, which includes all rules that will be used for transposition. The rules should transpose a lower scope to a higher scope.

To simplify the transpositions, there is a Scope Calculator window, which can be used for determining the number of iterations for the transposition rules and also the way of the rules appliance (right to left, or left to right).



Picture 3: Scope Calculator Window

The window can be opened by clicking on the Scope Calculator button. When a song file is selected at the selection list, then the Scope Calculator will try to determine the current scale of the song by looking for the {key: ABC} or {k: ABC} (ABC=Scale mark) in the song's file. Since there is no difference between positions of tones in the major and minor scales, all minor scales are shown as major ones, but in the transpositions process the major and minor scales will be distinguished as

expected.

When you have set up Current Scale and New Scale, you can hit Calculate button which will automatically set up swap checkbox and the number of iterations.

Processing the song entries

Before you can process any entry, you must specify the *output directory.* Please notify, that when you have added some directory as an entry, the *output directory* cannot be the subdirectory of such an entry (although it can be the entry directory itself).

You have two options how you can process the selection. Either you can process it as a whole, or you can process individual selection, which is currently selected. **If you want to process just the selected entry, you need to mark the "Process only selected item" check box.**

When you are ready, press the Proceed (or Proceed all) button and the entry, or entries will be processed into output directory.

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